

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (previously presented) An application server that retrieves data from a database using a retrieval request, which includes a retrieval condition, received from a terminal and transmits the data retrieved as a retrieval result to the terminal, comprising:

a cache memory that stores in a correlated form the retrieval condition and the retrieval result;

an update condition setting unit that sets a cache update condition based on a database update condition that indicates when the cache memory is to be updated, wherein the database update condition includes a number of data records updated in the database within a predetermined period; and

an update processing unit that reads the retrieval condition from the cache memory upon fulfillment of the cache update condition, retrieves data as the retrieval result from the database using the retrieval condition, and updates the retrieval result in the cache memory corresponding to the retrieval condition.

2. (cancelled)

3. (original) The application server according to claim 1, wherein, when searching the database, the update processing unit acquires a database update condition that indicates when the database is updated and the update condition setting unit sets the cache update condition based on the database update condition acquired.

4. (original) The application server according to claim 1, wherein a user sets the cache update condition.

5. (original) The application server according to claim 1, wherein the update processing unit sets next and subsequent cache update conditions using a date and a

time of the retrieval result updated.

6. (previously presented) A cache program that stores a retrieval request that includes a retrieval condition and that is received from a terminal and a retrieval result retrieved using the retrieval request in a correlated form in a cache memory, reads a retrieval result from the cache memory when a retrieval request identical to the retrieval request stored in the cache memory is received, and that makes a computer execute:

setting a cache update condition based on a database update condition that indicates when the cache memory is to be updated, wherein the database update condition includes a number of data records updated in the database within a predetermined period; and

reading the retrieval condition from the cache memory upon fulfillment of the cache update condition, retrieving data as the retrieval result from the database using the retrieval condition, and updating the retrieval result in the cache memory corresponding to the retrieval condition.

7. (cancelled)

8. (original) The cache program according to claim 6, further comprising acquiring a database update condition, when searching the database, that indicates when the database is updated, and the setting includes setting the cache update condition based on the database update condition acquired.

9. (original) The cache program according to claim 6, wherein the setting includes setting of the cache update condition by a user.

10. (original) The cache program according to claim 6, wherein the setting includes setting next and subsequent cache update conditions using a date and a time of the retrieval result updated.

11. (previously presented) An application server system comprising:
a plurality of application servers, each of which retrieves data from a database using a retrieval request, which includes a retrieval condition, received from a terminal and transmits the data retrieved as a retrieval result to the terminal, each application server including
a cache memory that stores in a correlated form the retrieval condition and the

retrieval result;

an update condition setting unit that sets a cache update condition based on a database update condition that indicates when the cache memory is to be updated, wherein the database update condition includes a number of data records updated in the database within a predetermined period; and

an update processing unit that reads the retrieval condition from the cache memory upon fulfillment of the cache update condition, retrieves data as the retrieval result from the database using the retrieval condition, and updates the retrieval result in the cache memory corresponding to the retrieval condition.

12. (original) The application server system according to claim 11, wherein the cache update condition of each application server differs from the cache update condition of any other application server.

13. (original) The application server system according to claim 11, wherein the cache update condition of all the application servers is identical.

14. (new) A cache update method comprising:

storing a retrieval request received from a terminal that includes a retrieval condition and a retrieval result retrieved using the retrieval request in a correlated form in a cache memory;

reading the retrieval result from the cache memory when a retrieval request identical to the retrieval request;

setting a cache update condition based on a database update condition that indicates when the cache memory is to be updated;

reading the retrieval condition from the cache memory upon fulfillment of the cache update condition;

retrieving data as the retrieval result from the database using the retrieval condition; and
updating the retrieval result in the cache memory corresponding to the retrieval condition.